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included plenty of woods and fields, and hilltops far away.

Turning to go on my way, I saw a tall figure coming toward me from the west along the top of the rocks. He was something over 6 feet tall, 25 or 30 years old, apparently, would weigh 190 lbs. and was dressed "roughing it." As we met in this wild, deserted, barren spot he greeted me with "Taking pictures?" "Nope," I replied, "haven't even put in a film yet; I'm botanizing." "So am I. My name is Benedict." "Ever have any correspondence with a fellow named Ransier?" Upon his replying that he had, I said "Well, I am Ransier!" It was a most unexpected meeting and we proceeded to make the most of it, comparing specimens, then repairing to a couple of stations for rarities, the moonwort, which he had never collected before, and the slender cliffbrake, both of which were within a very short distance of us. At first I was afraid to reveal the home of the moonwort to him, but I sized him up as safe to trust the secret to, and he has not disappointed me. Of course, we both wanted the floor at the same time occasionally, but he had an appointment in town, and it was soon "goodbye" and only a sight of him once since, but neither will ever forget the pleasure the day brought us.

MANLIUS, N. Y.

Whittier's herbarium

HAROLD GODDARD RUGG

This last spring, in looking over an auction catalog of books to be sold in New York City, I spied a notice of an album of ferns formerly belonging to John Greenleaf Whittier, the Quaker poet. I was fortunate enough to secure the album, a description of which may be of some

interest to members of the American Fern Society. The album is a large, nearly square book, in color blue; stamped with gold design, an album such as was used years ago by collectors of pretty advertising cards. On the inside cover is a book label reading: "From the library of John Greenleaf Whittier, Amesbury, Mass., sale authorized by Samuel T. Pikard, literary executor, Jan. 1903." On the opposite page appears the autograph of the poet himself: "John G. Whittier, Amesbury, Mass."

Some of the ferns, all of which are from California, are determined and their names written in the poet's hand beneath the mounted specimens. No labels were used. Among the specimens as determined by Whittier is the gold-back fern from San Diego County, California, silver-back fern from the same locality, a *Cheilanthes*, coffee fern from Alum Rock, Santa Clara County, birdfoot fern from Mt. Hamilton, Calif., *Davallia dissecta*, Santa Barbara, Calif. As the last fern is not native to California this frond came evidently from some greenhouse or other collections. Several of the ferns are not determined. Among these are evidently another variety of *Cheilanthes* from Southern California and a maidenhair from the Santa Cruz Mountains. The book contains also some everlastings and grasses from Lake Tahoe and four unnamed ferns without locality. Among these are a *Polypodium*, an *Asplenium*, probably *Asplenium vesperinum* and *Cystopteris fragilis* (L.) Bernh.

I do not find from biographies of Whittier that he ever visited California, so undoubtedly these few ferns were sent or brought him by some botanical friend.

HANOVER, N. H.